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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Trump didn't coordinate with Russia in 2016, report declares

By ERIC TUCKER, MICHAEL claim of vindication from BALSAMO, CHAD DAY and JULIE PACE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Special counsel Robert Mueller did not find evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or have shadowed his admincoordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election but reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice, Attorney General William Barr declared Sunday. That brought a hearty

Trump but set the stage for new rounds of political and legal fighting.

Trump cheered the outcome but also laid bare his resentment after two years of investigations that istration. "It's a shame that our country has had to go through this. To be honest, it's a shame that your president has had to go through this," he complained.

Continued on Page 2



Supporters of President Donald Trump are seen from the media van in the motorcade accompanying the president in West Palm Beach, Fla., Saturday, March 23, 2019, en route to Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla.

Associated Press





Trump didn't coordinate with Russia in 2016, report declares

Continued from Front

Democrats pointed out that Mueller found evidence for and against obstruction and demanded to see his full report. They insisted that even the summary by the president's attorney general hardly put him in the clear.

Mueller's conclusions, summarized by Barr in a fourpage letter to Congress, represented a victory for Trump on a key question that has hung over his presidency from the start: Did his campaign work with Russia to defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton? That was further good news for the president on top of the Justice Department's earlier announcement that Mueller had wrapped his investigation without new indictments. The resolution also could deflate the hopes of Democrats in Congress and on the 2020 campaign trail that incriminating findings from Mueller would hobble the president's agenda and re-election bid.

But while Mueller was categorical in ruling out criminal collusion, he was far more circumspect on presidential obstruction of justice. Despite Trump's claim of total exoneration, Mueller did not draw a conclusion one way or the other on whether he sought to stifle the Russia investigation through his actions including the firing of former FBI director James Comey.

According to Barr's summary, Mueller set out "evidence on both sides of the question" and stated that "while this report does not conclude the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him."

Barr, who was nominated by Trump in December, and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller in May 2017 and oversaw much of his work, went further in Trump's favor.

The attorney general said he and Rosenstein had determined that Mueller's evidence was insufficient to prove in court that Trump had committed obstruction of justice to hamper the probe. Barr has previously voiced a broad view of presidential powers, and in an unsolicited memo last June he cast doubt on whether the president could have obstructed justice through acts — like firing his FBI director — that he was legally empowered to take.

Barr said their decision was based on the evidence uncovered by Mueller and not affected by Justice Department legal opinions that say a sitting president cannot be indicted.

Mueller's team examined a series of actions by the president in the last two years to determine if he intended obstruction. Those include his firing of Comey one week before Mueller's appointment, his public and private haranguing of then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions for recusing himself from the Russia investigation because of his work on the campaign, his request of Comey to end an investigation into Michael Flynn, the White House's first national security adviser, and

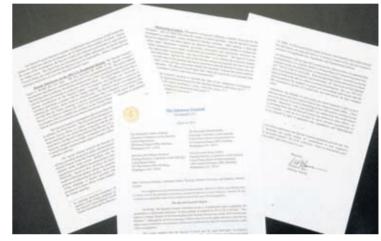
his drafting of an incomplete explanation about his oldest son's meeting with a Russian lawyer during the campaign.

Mueller's findings absolve Trump on the question of colluding with Russia but don't entirely remove the legal threats the president and associates are facing. Federal prosecutors in New York, for instance, are investigating hush-money payments made to two women during the campaign who say they had sex with the president. Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, implicated Trump in campaign finance violations when he pleaded guilty last year.

The special counsel's investigation did not come up empty-handed. It ensnared nearly three dozen people, senior Trump campaign operatives among them. The probe illuminated Russia's assault on the American political system, painted the Trump campaign as eager to exploit the release of hacked Democratic emails to hurt Hillary Clinton and exposed lies by Trump aides aimed at covering up their Russia-related contacts.

Thirty-four people, including six Trump aides and advisers, were charged in the investigation. Twentyfive are Russians accused of election interference either through hacking into Democratic accounts or orchestrating a social media campaign to spread disinformation on the internet.

Sunday's summary — and its suggestion that Mueller



A copy of a letter from Attorney General William Barr advising Congress of the principal conclusions reached by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, is shown Sunday, March 24, 2019 in Washington.

may have found evidence in support of obstruction — sets up a fight between Barr and Democrats, who called for the special counsel's full report to be released and vowed to press on with their own investigations. "Attorney General Barr's letter raises as many questions as it answers," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement.

"Given Mr. Barr's public record of bias against the special counsel's inquiry, he is not a neutral observer and is not in a position to make objective determinations about the report," they said. Trump's own claim of complete exoneration "directly contradicts the words of Mr. Mueller and is not to be taken with any degree of credibility," they added.

Trump was at his Florida estate when lawmakers received the report. Barr's chief of staff called Emmet Flood, the lead White House lawyer on the inves-

Associated Press

tigation, to brief him on the findings shortly before he sent it to Congress. Mueller submitted his report to Barr instead of directly to Congress and the public because, unlike independent counsels such as Ken Starr in the case of President Bill Clinton, his investigation operated under the close supervision of the Justice Department.

Barr did not speak with the president, Mueller was not consulted on the letter, and the White House does not have Mueller's report, according to a Justice Department official.

That's a likely reference not only to a June 2016 Trump Tower meeting at which Donald Trump. Jr. expected to receive damaging information on Clinton from a Kremlin-connected lawyer, as well as a conversation in London months earlier at which Trump campaign aide George Papadopoulos was told Russia had "dirt" on Clinton in the form of thousands of stolen emails.



U.S. NEWS MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019



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Experts warn Midwest flood risk may persist for months

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Even as floodwaters receded in hard-hit places in in the Midwest, experts warned Saturday that with plenty of snow still left to melt in northern states, the relief may only be temporary.

Rainfall and some snowmelt spurred flooding in recent weeks that's blamed in three deaths so far, with two men in Nebraska missing for more than a week. Thousands were forced from their homes in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri, as water broke through or poured over levees in the region. The damage is estimated at \$3 billion, and that figure is expected to rise.

As temperatures start to warm, snowmelt in the Dakotas and Minnesota will escalate, sending more water down the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and their tributaries.

Lt. Col. James Startzell, deputy commander of the Corps of Engineers' Omaha, Nebraska, district, said even warmer temperatures are possible into next week. He urged people living near rivers to be watchful.

Bill Brinton, emergency management director for hard-hit Buchanan County, Missouri, which includes St. Joseph's 76,000 residents, damage. The move makes said his counties and sur- assistance available to horounding ones have al- meowners, renters, busiready been ravaged by nesses, public entities and flooding.

"There's a sense from the tions.

May," Brinton said. "With our levee breaches in Atchison and Holt and Buchanan counties, it's kind of scary really."

A precautionary evacuation involving hundreds of homes in the St. Joseph area was lifted as the Missouri River began a swift decline after unofficially rising to a new all-time high, inches above the 1993 record. St. Joseph was largely spared, but Brinton said 250 homes were flooded in the southern part of Buchanan County. It wasn't clear when residents would be able to get back.

When they do, officials say they need to be careful. Contaminants that escaped from flooded farm fields, industrial operations and sewage plants are part of the murky water now saturating homes.

"We don't want them in that water, anyway," Hickey said.

Experts also warn that sharp objects — broken glass, pieces of metal, pointy sticks and rocks could lurk in muddy debris. Downed or broken power lines also may pose electrocution hazards.

On Saturday, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said President Donald Trump granted her request for an expedited disaster declaration for 56 counties with flooding some nonprofit organiza-

National Weather Service Another risk is posed by that we should expect it to wildlife. Brinton said two continue to happen into people in Buchanan County were bitten by snakes after returning home following flooding in 2011.

The Missouri River had yet to crest further downstream in Missouri, but the flooding impact in those areas was expected to be far less severe.

In South Dakota, Gov. Kristi Noem activated 13 members of the Army National Guard to help distribute water on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation after floodwaters washed out a county waterline. The guardsmen will provide drinkable water to people in the communi-



An angel statuary graces a yard near Hansen Lake Friday, March 22, 2019, in Bellevue, Neb.

ties of Red Shirt, Pine Ridge, Porcupine, Evergreen and Wounded Knee. The Guard

Associated Press will set up from a central location in each community until the waterline is fixed. \Box





Suddenly, cost-cutting states turn friendly to teachers

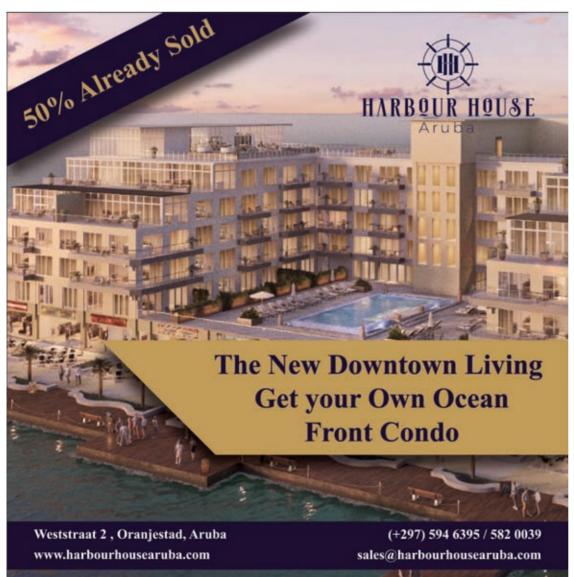


In this March 11, 2019, photo, Educators attend a rally to support funding for public schools at the state Capitol in Austin, Texas.

By PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press (AP) AUSTIN. Texas

Schoolteacher raises of hike that ranks among the \$5,000 are on the table in biggest in the U.S. since a Texas — a proposed pay

Associated Press wave of teacher unrest be-



gan last year.

But protests aren't why the money is suddenly available.

Texas hasn't even had a teacher strike.

But as in other GOP strongholds this spring, lawmakers who have spent years clashing with public schools by slashing budgets, ratcheting up testing and cheerleading private schools are blinking in the face of election pressure as much as picket lines.

Rattled by a dreadful midterm election for Republicans — and looking ahead to 2020 — conservativeleaning states including Georgia, Oklahoma and South Carolina are pouring new money into schools. And to ensure it doesn't go unnoticed, Republicans are making a show of a renewed commitment to public classrooms, courting voters turned off by years of cost-cutting that catered to the party's base. Nowhere is this political whiplash more on display than in Texas, where just two years ago conservatives pushed heavily for private school vouchers and restrictions on which bathrooms transgender students could use. That was followed last November by Republicans losing 14 seats in the Statehouse, their worst election in a generation.

To some, the message was clear. Said Republican state Sen. Kel Seliger, quoting a top GOP official "way up" whom he wouldn't name: "Urban Texas is now room funding for the state's blue. Suburban Texas is purple and it's rural Texas that is still red. And then what does that mean for the future" of the party?

Seliger added, "You're not hearing anything about a bathroom bill.

You're not hearing any-

one utter the word 'vouchers' this session. And I think that's significant."

A nationwide teacher revolt that began with walkouts in West Virginia in early 2018 is still kicking. In Kentucky, recurring "sickouts" for teacher protests forced schools to cancel classes, and a six-day teacher strike in Los Angeles ended with a 6 percent pay hike and commitment to smaller classes.

Elsewhere, new worries over elections are moving Republicans to act on their own.

In Oklahoma, the state's CEO-turned-governew nor, Kevin Stitt, made giving teachers another pay boost a key plank of his campaign.

He's pushing ahead with an additional \$1,200 pay increase for classroom teachers, a year after several Republican opponents of a pay package were ousted in GOP primaries.

In South Carolina, a state budget passed by House lawmakers would give all teachers a 4 percent raise and bump the minimum salary for first-year teachers to \$35,000. Teachers there have asked for a 10 percent raise.

Public concern about education is growing, said Pat McFerron, a GOP pollster and strategist in Oklahoma. "In a red state where Republicans are in control, it's going to fall on Republicans."

Texas is in the middle of the pack nationally in class-5.5 million public school students, and teacher pay is about \$7,000 below the national average.

In recent years, conservatives have pushed for directing some funding to students attending private and religious schools.



New Jersey lawmakers near vote on recreational cannabis

By MIKE CATALINI Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - Lawmakers are poised to vote on making New Jersey the 11th state to legalize recreational marijuana.

The Democrat-led Assembly and Senate have scheduled votes for Monday. The vote, whose outcome remains unclear, comes after more than a year of mostly back-room wrangling since Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy came into office. Murphy campaigned on legalization, in contrast with his predecessor, Republican Chris Christie. New Jersey would join the District of Columbia and 10 other states with legalized recreational use of the drug for adults if the vote succeeds.

Murphy supports the legislation and has been calling lawmakers seeking their support, according to his office.

Despite Democratic control of state government, the issue has divided legislators, with even some Democrats who supported the measure in committee saying they weren't committed to a yes vote on the floor.

A closer look at the New Jersey measure:

WHAT'S IN THE BILL?

The measure would allow for the sale and personal use of up to an ounce of marijuana for people 21 and over. The drug would be taxed at \$42 an ounce, with the ability for towns that host growers, processors, wholesalers or retailers to charae an additional tax of up to 3 percent in some cases.

The measure calls for setting up a five-person cannabis regulatory commission, which would set the around rules and oversee marijuana regulation in New Jersey.

The governor would name three of the five full-time members, who would serve for five-year terms. The Assembly speaker and Senate president would name the other two members. The proposal also calls for

expundement of pending charges and prior marijuana-related convictions. Under the proposal, New Jersey would allow for the expunaement of marijuana crimes for possession up to 5 pounds. Lawmakers acknowledge it sounds like a lot but say it's necessary in order to allow for an expedited expungement process, since the statute covering possession for small amounts of cannabis goes up to 5 pounds.

The measure also aims to incentivize women and minorities to participate in the legal marijuana market by requiring 30 percent of licenses go to these groups. The bill also calls for an investigation on the influence of cannabis on driving and calls for funding drug-recognition experts for law enforcement.

WHEN COULD YOU START USING RECREATIONAL **MARIJUANA?**

The bill says that it would be legal to possess up to an ounce as soon as the bill is HOW DOES NEW JERSEY'S



In this Friday, March 22, 2019 photo, marijuana buds are locked on display at Compassionate Care Foundation's medical marijuana dispensary in Egg Harbor Township, N.J.

enacted, but it would be TAX COMPARE TO OTHER longer until the legal marketplace is set up.

Medical marijuana facilities would be cleared to begin offering recreational cannabis soon after the bill passes but are required to keep enough product to serve patients first.

It could be about six months retail locations open since the commission would have to set guidelines.

Associated Press STATES'?

Lawmakers are proposing the \$42 per-ounce tax, with towns permitted to tax more, up to 3 percent in the case of retailers.

Most states with recreational marijuana levy an excise tax as a percentage, though Alaska also levies a per-ounce tax, which is set at \$50, according to a survey of tax rates by the conservative-leaning Tax Foundation.



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BRAZILIAN **Butt Lift**

In this Friday, March 22, 2019 photo, a window display advertises low-cost cosmetic procedures outside a surgery clinic in Miami. Associated Press



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Florida may boost regulation of cosmetic surgery clinics

By ELLIS RUA

Associated Press MIAMI (AP) — Choeun Nuon traveled from her home in California to a Miami-area cosmetic surgery clinic to have a so-called Brazilian butt lift in February 2017. Instead of recovering after the procedure, the 32-year-old mother of two began slipping in and out of consciousness.

She eventually passed out because of a severe drop in blood pressure.

When Nuon awoke and slowly found her bearings, she was in an emergency operating room at a nearby hospital, surrounded by medical staff. Medics learned that her surgeon had punctured her lumbar artery, causing her profuse internal bleeding.

"I was fighting for my life," Nuon said. "They told me that I was lucky to be alive." South Florida has become a hub for the freewheeling industry in trendy cosmetic surgeries, drawing a boom in medical tourism. Costs for such procedures have come down — even as more routine surgeries covered by insurance and Medicaid have skyrocketed — in what observers such as Florida House Speaker Jose Oliva call a success of the free market. However, complications and even deaths of several out-of-state women in recent years have spiked concerns over safety of the cosmetic procedures, prompting a bill before the Florida Legislature this year to shut down the butcher Nuon's attorney, Andres to impose stricter regulations.

Brazilian butt lifts, a fat transfer procedure in which doctors perform liposuction have been singled out as means who are seeking

especially perilous. A task force led by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons found they have a mortality rate of 1 in 3,000, compared with a rate of about 50,000 for office-based cosmetic procedures in general.

The bill, which was approved by a House committee earlier this month and has support in both chambers, would require facilities and doctors to demonstrate financial responsibility to pay out claims when deemed at fault for serious injury. Current Florida law does not require cosmetic surgery clinics to have medical liability insurance.

The legislation, proposed by Miami-area Republicans Sen. Anitere Flores and Rep. Anthony Rodriguez, also would give the state Health Department authorization to suspend or place five-year bans on facility owners and physicians who fail to comply with the rule changes, preventing new clinics from being opened under another name.

"That's particularly important," Flores said. "What we found is that many of these clinics, someone will die at one of their clinics, and the next day they'll open back up and take new patients as if nothing happened." The law change would also require surgery centers to be at least partly owned a

medical doctor. "We can give the Department of Health the tools said shops," she said.

shopping plazas, these businesses market their services via social media to of the torso and then inject women across the counthat fat into the buttocks, try with limited financial

weight loss surgeries, breast augmentations, and Brazilian butt lifts. The doctors often are not certified by a plastic surgery board and provide such procedures at a fraction of the cost when compared with established, board-certified clinics.

Florida law permits any licensed medical doctor to perform cosmetic surgery without being a board-certified plastic surgeon. The bill would, however, require the state Board of Medicine to adopt new rules governing the standard of care for physicians practicing within the clinics, though it remains unclear how the board would enhance the protections.

Nuon had other cosmetic work done in the past and was aware of the risks. But she said she chose a doctor who claimed to be a board-certified plastic surgeon online, according to court documents. The surgeon, Dr. Anthony Hasan at Palmetto Lakes Surgical Center, it turned out, was not certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, nor did he have medical liability insurance.

Ryan M. Sanders, Hasan's attorney, declined comment on behalf of his client. Still, Nuon has filed a lawsuit seeking damages for the punctured artery, as well as for emotional distress and loss of earnings.

"I feel violated, manipulated and betrayed," Nuon

Beregovich, who repre-Often found in Miami-area sents several clients across the U.S. who are suing Florida doctors and clinics, said Florida so far has been lax in policing plastic surgeons and the clinics they operate out of.

New Mexico archbishop again denounces 'Santa Muerte'



In this Feb. 19, 2017 file photo, a child arranges statues of La Santa Muerte, or "Our Lady of Holy Death," on the edge of Mexico City's Tepito neighborhood.

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

- A New Mexico archbishop is renewing his call for Catholics to stop worshipping the skeleton folk saint known as La Santa Muerte, or "Our Lady of Holy Death," saying he fears some mistakenly believe the Grim Reaper-like figure is a Roman Catholic Church-sanctioned saint.

Santa Fe Archbishop John Wester recently told The Associated Press he believes some Catholics may be fooled into venerating Santa Muerte even though the focus on death runs counter to the church's teachings.

"It's really wrong," Wester said. "I think in part, it's (because) people are looking and searching. It's a symptom of a search looking for answers."

But the devotion to death is not in line with the church's teachings, Wester said, and Santa Muerte is misleading to people.

"Our devotion is to the God of life," Wester said. Popular in Mexico and

sometimes linked to drug cartels, La Santa Muerte in recent years has found a diverse following north of the border: immigrant small-business owners, artists, gay activists and the poor, among others many of them non-Latinos and not all involved with organized religion.

Shrines and statues of the skeleton figure — typically depicted wearing a black nun's robe and holding a scythe — can be found in New Mexico, California, Louisiana. Texas and elsewhere.

People pray to Santa Muerte for all manner of otherworldly help, from fending off wronadoing and exacting revenge to landing better jobs and stopping lovers from cheating. Others seek her protection for their drug shipments and to ward off law enforcement.

Wester is one of only a handful of U.S. Roman Catholic bishops who have denounced Santa Muerte. In 2017, he joined El Paso Bishop Mark Seitz and San Angelo Bishop Michael Sis to avoid honoring to the folk saint.

Sis said La Santa Muerte is "spiritually dangerous" and thor of "Devoted to Death: has no link to Catholicism. "It should be completely avoided. It is a perversion of devotion to the saints," Sis said.

But so far no other highranking Catholic church

in Texas in urging Catholics officials have publicly criticized the worshipping of Santa Muerte, according to Andrew Chesnut, au-Santa Muerte, the Skeleton Saint" and Bishop Walter F. Sullivan chair in Catholic studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. "In Latin America, church

officials rebuke Santa Muerte almost weekly," Chesnut said. Chesnut said he believes U.S. Catholic officials have been reluctant to aggressively attack Santa Muerte because of their focus on defending migrants' rights and concerns about portraying Mexican immigrants as "dangerous and all connected to drug trafficking."







U.K. PM May faces heavy pressure to step down to save Brexit



An effigy of British Prime Minister Theresa May is wheeled through Trafalgar Square during a Peoples Vote anti-Brexit march in London, Saturday, March 23, 2019.



By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Embattled Prime Minister Theresa May was scrambling Sunday to win over adversaries to her Brexit withdrawal plan as key Cabinet ministers denied media reports that they were plotting to oust her.

May spent the afternoon ensconced in a crisis meeting at her country residence Chequers with fellow Conservatives and outspoken Brexit advocates like Boris Johnson, Jacob Rees-Mogg and others who would prefer to leave the European Union without a divorce deal rather than delay Britain's departure from the bloc further. Her office released a statement afterward giving no hint about whether she had gained any new backing. It said only that they discussed "whether there is sufficient support" to bring her Brexit divorce plan back to Parliament for a third vote.

The prime minister has found her authority weakened after a series of setbacks in Parliament and her inability to win meaningful concessions from EU leaders who refuse to sweeten the Brexit deal.

The Sunday Times claims that 11 Cabinet ministers of a no-deal exit and also plan to tell May to resign so what would be a very big deal and a new path, such a caretaker leader can be put in her place to kick start the stalled Brexit process. She faces growing pressure from within her own party either to resign or to set a date for stepping down as a way to build support for her Brexit plan.

The confrontation may come to a head at a Cabinet session expected Monday. Under Conservative Party rules, May cannot face a formal leadership challenge from within her own party until December because she survived one three months ago. But she may be persuaded that her position is untenable if top Cabinet ministers and other senior party members desert her.

Despite headlines about a Cabinet coup, there was no indication from Downing Street on Sunday that a resignation was near. Two of the people mentioned as possible successors — Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington and Treasury chief Philip Hammond -expressed strong support for May.

Hammond said Sunday that senior party members plotting to oust May were being "self-indulgent." He said a change of leadership would not provide a solution to the U.K.'s political deadlock on Brexit.

"We've got to address the question of what type of Brexit is acceptable to Parliament, what type of way forward Parliament can agree on so that we can avoid what would be an economic catastrophe challenge to confidence in our political system if we didn't exit at all," Hammond said.

Lidington, mentioned as a possible caretaker prime minister should May be ousted, said Sunday that talk of a Cabinet revolt was far-fetched speculation. He said May is doing a "fantastic job" and that he has no desire to take her place.

Still, May thus far has been unable to generate enough support in Parliament for the deal her government and the EU reached late last year. Lawmakers voted down the Brexit plan twice, and May has raised the possibility of bringing it back a third time if enough legislators appear willing to switch their votes.

The Cabinet is focused on the best way to get May's withdrawal plan passed in the House of Commons, Lidington said.

The U.K.'s departure from the EU was set to take place on March 29, but the absence of an approved divorce agreement prompted May last week to ask the leaders of the 27 remaining EU nations for a postponement.

The leaders agreed to delay Brexit until May 22, on the eve of the EU Parliament elections, if the prime minister can persuade Parliament to endorse her twice-rejected agreement. If she is unable to rally support for the deal, the European leaders said Britain only has until April 12 to choose between leaving the EU without a divorce as revoking the decision to leave the bloc or callina another voter referendum on Brexit.

Parliament may hold a series of votes this week to determine what Brexit proposals, if any, could command majority support.



Terror at sea: Helicopter rescues frightened cruise passengers

By MARK LEWIS and JARI An experienced fisherman, TANNER

Associated Press STAVANGER,

Norway (AP) — Rodney Horgen recalled the moment he thought he was facing the end: when a huge wave crashed through the Viking Sky cruise ship's glass doors and swept his wife 30 feet across the floor.

Horgen, 62, of Minnesota, was visiting Norway on a dream pilgrimage to his ancestral homeland when the luxury cruise quickly turned into a nightmare.

The Viking Sky was carrying 1,373 passengers and crew, going from Norway's Arctic north to the southern city of Stavanger when it had engine trouble along Norway's rough, frigid western coast. Struggling in heavy seas to avoid being dashed on the rocky coast, the ship issued a mayday call Saturday afternoon.

Horgan said he knew something was badly amiss when the guests on the heaving ship were summoned to the vessel's muster points.

"When the windows and door flew open and the 2 meters (6 feet) of water swept people and tables 20 to 30 feet that was the breaker. I said to myself, 'This is it,'" Horgen told The Associated Press. "I grabbed my wife but I couldn't hold on. And she was thrown across the room. And then she got thrown back again by the wave coming back."

media showed the ship listing from side to side and furniture smashing violently into the ship's walls. The hands and faces of fellow passengers were cut and bleeding from the shattered glass, he said.

Horgen said he had never before encountered such rough boating conditions.

"I did not have a lot of hope. I knew how cold that water was and where we were and the waves and everything. You would not last very long," he said. "That was very, very frightening." And yet, the scariest part was yet to come. That was when hundreds of passengers, including Horgen, were winched off the heaving ship by helicopter, one-by-one as winds howled around them in the dark of night, by rescue workers trying to evacuate everyone on board.

Waves up to 26-feet- (8-meters-) high were smacking into the ship, making it impossible to evacuate anyone by boat.

The ship was within 100 meters (300 feet) of striking rocks under the water and 900 meters (2,950 feet) from shore when it stopped and anchored in Hustadvika Bay so passengers could be evacuated, Coast Guard official Emil Heggelund told Norway's VG newspaper.

Norway's Joint Rescue Coordination Center stepped in, sending in five helicop-Passenger Alexus ters. Sheppard told the AP that people with injuries or disabilities were winched off the cruise ship first.

"It was frightening at first. And when the general The Viking Oceans Cruise Photos posted on social VERY real," she wrote in a next scheduled trip, to text.

> first group of passengers on Wednesday, was canevacuated to the nearby town of Molde, told Norwegian broadcaster NRK that the winds felt "like a tornado" and prompted her to investigation.

start praying for everyone on the ship.

"I was afraid. I've never experienced anything so scary," she said.

"We saw two people taken off by stretcher," passenger Dereck Brown told Norwegian newspaper Romsdal Budstikke. "People were alarmed. Many were frightened but they were calm." Viking Ocean Cruises, the company that owns and operates the ship, said 20 people were injured and received treatment at medical centers.

The airlift evacuation went all through the night and into Sunday morning, slowing for a bit when two of the five rescue helicopters had to be diverted to save nine crewmembers from a nearby ailing cargo ship.

Einar Knudsen of Norway's Joint Rescue Coordination Center said the airlift was halted when the captain decided before noon Sunday to try to bring the cruise ship to the nearby port of Molde on its own engines.

"The conditions were good enough for the captain to have no more evacuations," Knudsen told the AP. Three of the ship's four engines were working so a tug boat and two other vessels assisted the Viking Sky as it slowly headed to Molde under its own power. It finally docked at the port late Sunday afternoon, the cruise company said.

alarm sounded it became company said the ship's Scandinavia and Ger-Janet Jacob, among the many that was to leave celled. Norway's Accident Investigations Board said the ship would remain in Molde, pending an



Passengers are helped from a rescue helicopter in Fraena, Norway, Sunday March 24, 2019, after being rescued from the Viking Sky cruise ship.





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U.S. backed Syrian force clears area retaken from IS

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S.-backed Syrian fighters cleared explosives in the last area retaken from the Islamic State group on Sunday and arrested a number of militants hiding in tunnels, a day after declaring military victory and the end of the extremists' self-styled caliphate.

The U.S.-led coalition said the clearing operations will continue until the area is secure.

A spokesman for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, who goes by the nom de guerre Mervan The Brave, said Baghouz village where the militants made their final stand is "full of all kinds of explosives." He said SDF forces have detonated land mines and suicide belts left behind by the militants.

The Kurdish Hawar News Agency reported that during the combing SDF forces arrested a number of militants found hiding in combat tunnels. Mervan The Brave confirmed the reports but had no further details.

Other activist groups monitoring the area reported limited clashes between remaining militants and SDF fighters.

In a series of tweets, the U.S.-led coalition said the SDF continued "backclearance operations" to or weapon caches.

"The Syrian Democratic Forces will continue to deny Daesh a physical space and influence in the area and work to deny them the resources they need to return," it said using the



A U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter stands on a rooftop overlooking Baghouz, Syria, after the SDF declared the area free of Islamic State militants after months of fighting on Saturday, March 23, 2019.

back-clearance operation will be deliberate and thorough and help ensure the long-term security for the area."

A day earlier, a Syrian driver working with NBC News reporters was killed by an explosive device that went off in a house used by the SDF as a command post and a media center for journalists covering the fighting in Baghouz.

Noah Oppenheim, the president of NBC News, said in a statement that network employees esrid Baghouz of any militants caped unharmed and that the reason for the explosion was being investigated. He expressed "deepest sympathies" to the driver's family and said the network is in touch with them to "support them however we can."

Arabic acronym for IS. "This The victory announced in Baghouz on Saturday marks the end of a devastating five-year campaign by an array of forces to retake territories held by IS in Syria and Iraq. At its height, IS controlled a sprawling self-declared caliphate between the two countries that was home to some 8 million people.

The campaign against the group came at a staggering cost, with entire neighborhoods and towns destroyed in both countries. Thousands of civilians are believed to have been killed by IS during its brutal reign as well as the air and ground operations by the coalition and allied troops. Watchdog groups continue to document the casualties.

Meanwhile, the SDF said 11,000 of its fighters were

Associated Press

killed in the fight against IS. The militants were holding hostages and had detained civilians, the fate of many also remains unknown.

Despite the territorial defeat, the militants have reverted to insurgent tactics and continue to carry out attacks in areas liberated months or even years ago. An unknown number of fighters and supporters slipped into Syrian and Iraqi towns and villages, forming the backbone of the new insurgency.

The fate of the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, remains unknown. There is a \$25 million bounty on his head.

In recent weeks, thousands of people, including IS fighters and their family members, left Baghouz and were taken to detention centers and crowded camps for the displaced elsewhere in eastern Syria. "This is an historic moment, but we cannot be complacent," tweeted Maj. Gen. Christopher Ghika, the deputy commander of the U.S.-led coalition against IS. "Even without territory, Daesh will continue to pose a threat to the people of Iraq and Syria, as well as to the wider world. The coalition must remain firm in its determination to counter Daesh," he said.

Separately, Syrian state media reported that nearly two dozen people have suffered from asphyxiation after shells were lobbed from rebel-held areas into government-administered villages in the country's west.

The state news agency quoted director of a local hospital in Hama province as saying that 21 people were hospitalized after inhaling gases in the attack on al-Rasif and al-Aziziyeh villages.

The pro-state Al-Ikhbariya TV interviewed survivors at the hospital who said a foul smell followed the launching of mortars into their villages.

The months-old truce, sponsored by Russia and Turkey, in Syria's west has been tested, as fighting between aovernment forces and al-Qaida-linked militants resumed. The government wants to regain control of a key highway that flanks the opposition-held area. Al-Qaida-linked militants have expanded their dominance in northwestern Syria, rooting out other armed opposition groups and undermining the truce.



WORLD NEWS A11 MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019



THE PELICAN NEST

In this photo provided by the Serbian government, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, centre, along with other dignitaries, attend a remembrance ceremony to mark the twentieth anniversary of the 1999 NATO intervention, in Nis, Serbia, Sunday, March 24, 2019.

Associated Press

Serbia, Kosovo mark start of NATO intervention 20 years ago

By JOVANA GEC Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Twenty years after NATO intervened to stop Serbia's onslaught in Kosovo, Belgrade on Sunday commemorated the victims of what it says was an aggression while Kosovo hailed the beginning of its national liberation.

The staunchly opposed views of the two former war foes reflect persisting tensions over Kosovo, a former Serbian province whose 2008 declaration of independence Serbia still does not recognize.

Thousands of people gathered Sunday evening in the southern Serbian city of Nis for the main remembrance event featuring top state officials. President Aleksandar Vucic said in a speech that Serbia will never forget its victims.

"Yes, it was a crime!" Vucic said of the bombing campaian. "No one has been held responsible for these crimes. Serbian civilians, our children, were a permitted target of the NATO aggression."

Anti-NATO sentiments remain high in Serbia even as the country seeks European Union entry. Vucic reiterated Serbia won't join the Western military alliance. Earlier on Sunday, Serbian far-right supporters burned NATO and EU flags in Belgrade, condemning the 78-day bombing that ended the country's rule over the territory many here view as their nation's historic heartland.

Wreath-lying commemorations also were held throughout the day.

Rights groups say several hundred people died in the NATO bombing, while Serbia says the number of victims was much higher. The bombing also destroyed much of Serbia's infrastructure.

"It is wonderful that Kosovo's people are free and children can grow up at their home and can go to their schools and that's only thanks to NATO air campaign," Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj told The Associated Press.

Kenyan who gave earnings to poor wins \$1M teacher prize

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By AYA BATRAWY

Associated Press DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A Kenyan teacher from a remote village who gave away most of his earnings to the poor won a \$1 million prize on Sunday for his work teaching in a government-run school that has just one computer and shoddy Internet access.

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> > The annual Global Teacher Prize was awarded to Peter Tabichi in the opulent Atlantis Hotel in Dubai in a ceremony hosted by actor Hugh Jackman.

> > Tabichi said the farthest he'd traveled before this was to Uganda. Coming to Dubai marked his first time on an airplane.

> > "I feel great. I can't believe it. I feel so happy to be among the best teachers in the world, being the best in the world," he told The Associated Press after his win.

> > Tabichi teaches science to high schoolers in the semiarid village of Pwani where almost a third of children are orphans or have only one parent. Drought and famine are common.

> > He said the school has no library and no laboratory. He plans to use the million dollars from his win to improve the school and feed the poor.

> > Despite the obstacles Tabichi's students face, he's credited with helping many stay in school, qualify for international competitions in science and engineering and go on to college.

> > "At times, whenever I reflect on the challenges they face, I shed tears," he said of his students, adding that his win will help give them confidence.

> > Kenyan President Uhuru Ke-



Kenyan teacher Peter Tabichi, center, actor Hugh Jackman, left, and Dubai crown prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, right, react after Tabichi won the \$1 million Global Teacher Prize in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, March 24, 2019.

nyatta said in a statement that Tabichi's story "is the story of Africa" and of hope for future generations.

As a member of the Roman Catholic brotherhood, Tabichi wore a plain floor-length brown robe to receive the award presented by Dubai's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The prize is awarded by the Varkey Foundation, whose founder, Sunny Varkey, established the for-profit GEMS Education company that runs 55 schools in the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Qatar.

In his acceptance speech, Tabichi said his mother died when he was just 11 years old, leaving his father, a primary school teacher, with the job of raising him and his siblinas alone.

Tabichi thanked his father for instilling Christian values in him, then pointed to his father in the audience, invited him up on stage and handed him the award to hold as the room erupted in applause and cheers.

"I found tonight to be in-

Associated Press

credibly emotional, verv moving," Jackman told the AP after hosting the ceremony and performing musical numbers from his film The Greatest Showman.

Now in its fifth year, the prize is the largest of its kind. It's quickly become one of the most coveted and prestigious for teachers. Tabichi selected out of out 10,000 applicants.

The winner is selected by committees comprised of teachers, journalists, officials, entrepreneurs, business leaders and scientists. Last year, a British art teacher was awarded for her work in one of the most ethnically diverse places in the country. Her work was credited with helping students feel welcome and safe in a borough with high murder rates.

Other winners include a Canadian teacher for her work with indigenous students in an isolated Arctic village where suicide rates are high, and a Palestinian teacher for her work in helping West Bank refugee children traumatized by violence.

Venezuelan power struggle creates diplomatic duel abroad

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — When Lorena Delgado approached the Venezuelan consulate in Colombia's capital on a recent afternoon hoping to extend the life of her expiring passport, she found the metal gates to the languishing building shuttered.

Days earlier, Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro had severed ties with the neighboring Andean nation where over a million of his compatriots have fled in recent years, recalling all his diplomats and leaving the consulate and embassy buildings closed.

The man challenging Maduro's claim to the presidency had appointed a new ambassador, but he was at a loss about how to help her. Despite Colombia recognizing Juan Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate president, the ambassador he sent does not have access to the consulate or the ability to issue passport extensions.

"You feel trapped," said Delgado, 32, who needs to travel abroad to apply for a work visa. "We're in limbo." As Venezuela's power struggle stretches on, a parallel dispute for control of embassy buildings in the countries recognizing Guaido as Venezuela's true president has taken root. While new opposition-appointed diplomats are being recognized around the world, the United States is the only nation where they control a consulate building. In no country do Guaido's envoys have the ability to carry out basic tasks like issuing a passport, as Venezuela's civil registration agency remains under the control of Maduro.

The diplomatic duel has left the estimated 3.4 million Venezuelans who now live abroad stuck between two administrations. In most countries holdover consular employees continue to carry out tasks like registering births abroad while new, Guaido-appointed ambassadors remain outside embassy walls, symbols of their movement's



In this Feb. 21, 2019 file photo, Venezuelan diplomats designated by opposition leader Juan Guaido including Gustavo Marcano, second left, confer while supporters of President Nicolas Maduro interrupt a press conference in Washington.

lagging advance.

"At this moment, we don't have a solution from either side," said Paola Soto, 25, who is trying to reunite with her 5-year-old son in Chile. The battle for diplomatic recognition is largely taking place behind closed doors, but it has occasionally spilled out into public. In February, the Guaidoappointed ambassador to Costa Rica, Maria Faria, announced she had taken control of the embassy in San Jose, proudly posting on Twitter a photograph of herself standing in front of a Venezuelan flag inside the building. A shouting match erupted outside when the Maduro-appointed diplomats tried to get in.

Costa Rica's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, despite recognizing Faria as Venezuela's ambassador, issued a statement deploring her actions, saying she'd broken an established protocol allowing Maduro appointees 60 days to leave. In March, a similarly confusing incident took place in Lima, Peru when workers were spotted at night removing chairs and even a stately bust of South American independence hero Simon Bolivar from the Venezuelan embassy. The furniture was put back inside after anti-government protesters decried them.

"You've robbed enough in Venezuela!" one angry woman shouted.

More recently, on Monday, Guaido's U.S. ambassador announced he was taking control of the New York consulate and two military-owned buildings in Washington where images of Maduro have now been replaced with portraits of Guaido.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza accused the United States of violating articles of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations that require host countries to protect foreign embassy buildings even when ties are severed.

He warned that if the U.S. doesn't fulfill its international obligations, the Venezuelan government could pursue legal action and retaliate with reciprocal action - a not so veiled threat that they might occupy the recently vacated U.S. Embassy in Caracas. The U.S. withdrew all embassy personnel from Caracas due to safety concerns after Maduro severed ties with the U.S. over its support for Guaido.

Gustavo Marcano, an exiled Venezuelan mayor who now works for the Guaido-backed Venezuelan embassy in the U.S., said the building acquisition is one of several attempts to Associated Press

ensure Venezuela's assets abroad are protected. The U.S. is also working to transfer other prized belongings, like Houston-based CITGO, a subsidiary of Venezuela's state oil company, to Guaido.

"This is the first step toward ending usurpation," he said from inside the Manhattan consulate, where photos of the late socialist leader Hugo Chavez still hung on the walls.

He added that while they cannot issue documents like passports, the Guaidoled consulate does plan to look for other remedies to help the increasingly large number of Venezuelans who possess no valid form of identification. One idea being floated is the creation of a consular-issued identification card that would be recognized by the host nation.

In other countries, the Guaido-named ambassadors are taking a gentler approach, choosing to slowly work toward eventually taking control of consulates in conjunction with the host nation's foreign relations ministry - or avoiding the topic altogether.

Humberto Calderon, the appointed ambassador to Colombia, said he's focused more on tending to Venezuelan migrants, viewing occupying the buildings as a potential agitator that could harm Colombians living in Venezuela.

"It's our decision," he said. "We haven't wanted to do it."

Calderon once served as Venezuela's energy minister and is working from a hotel. He said that when Maduro severed diplomatic relations with Colombia, nearly all the consular staff left, boarding a government-sent plane and flying home. He's had no access to anything they left behind in the buildings.

In other countries, some Maduro employees have stayed on, gingerly sidestepping the higher-voltage political fight.

In Peru, five Maduro-appointed envoys will remain in place to carry out consular functions, according to a high-ranking Venezuelan official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the situation. He said that after talks with Peru's foreign ministry, an agreement was reached allowing them to remain in the country and continue working in the embassy, even though the nation recognizes Guaido's ambassador. That's a scenario that's likely to play out in most countries: Even as more than 50 heads of state declare their allegiance to Guaido, necessity will inevitably compel them to maintain a range of ties to the Maduro government. "Ultimately it's not in any country's real interest to maintain an embassy that's run by staff that have no ability to advance commercial or consular interests," said Geoff Ramsey, a Venezuela researcher at the Washington Office on Latin America.

He pointed to the case of the Netherlands, which despite backing Guaido, has pledged to keep the Maduro consular staff intact in the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao, which stands about 40 miles from Venezuela's coast. The Netherlands has joint ventures with Venezuela's giant state-run oil company at stake.

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Feeling Sick during vacation? At Your Service: Experienced Doctor & Pharmacy under one Roof



PALM BEACH — Feeling sick is a miserable thing during vacation. This is the time of the year you should enjoy and relax, so staying in a hotel room bed with a sunstroke, skin allergy, ear infection or intestinal problems can be a bummer. The best thing to do is to recover as soon as possible, and Dr. Lili Beke of the Aruba Walk-in Clinic, together with Palm Beach Service Pharmacy are a one-stop-shopping solution.

A Walk-In Clinic to Walk To

First of all she is calm, kind and understanding. Personal touch is her trade mark and with more than 35 years of experience as a medical doctor she knows what's going on. Doctor Beke is located in Palm Beach, at the door steps of the hotel area and her clinic is appropriately named the Aruba Walk-In Clinic. "I'd like to put myself in the shoes of the visitor. Being in a strange place, sometimes far from family or even alone and feeling sick. You can feel lost and disorientated. I can understand that and try to give them comprehension and a welcome feeling while examining them. So they leave with a smile, even if they feel a bit sick." The doctor speaks seven languages: English, Dutch, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Papiamento, meaning she can attend to almost any tourist from all over the world. "You can come in without an appointment and we have an emergency number that works 24/7, if necessary I will visit the patient where he/she is staying. We attend patients every day!" Her philosophy is as follows: As long as you enjoy what you are doing and like to help people, this profession is very rewarding." It sounds like the perfect place to heal.

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Two quality parties that work together can only be a good thing. After you pick up your prescription at Dr. Beke's practice, you can go to the Pharmacy, right next door. The collaboration between these two results in a quick, efficient and quality service. It's just what you need when you feel the only thing you want is healing. Lennert van der Poel, general manager of the Pharmacy, which is part of a Group of 5 pharmacies, points out that convenience is not their only unique asset. "We carry a wide variety of medicines from the US, but most of the medicines come from the EU. The prices in the EU are considerately lower than in the U.S." All medicine are European registered with the same standard as U.S. products. "The law in the States allows visitors to get medicines here for the use of six months and many repeated guests or time share owners do so. This saves them a lot of money. It is however mandatory to have a prescription from a local doctor", says van der Poel. Most common medicines requested by visitors are antibiotic, pain killers and anti-allergy medications.

Naturally we wish you the healthiest, most wonderful vacation of your life on our Happy Island. But In case you are in need of a doctor and a pharmacy, just turn around, walk in and feel welcome to be cured!

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Snorkel and explore the underwater landscapes with the Jolly Pirates

PALM BEACH — Jolly Pirates Snorkeling cruises are the perfect way to appreciate Aruba's underwater environment, the island's pristine ocean and gain a sense of discovery.

Snorkel Tips from Experts

The best snorkeling tips are those that are given to you by experts. The key to enjoy a day of snorkeling is to be relaxed and comfortable. Always start with adjusting your mask. The secret is to simply hold your mask to your face and breathe in through your nose. Your mask fits perfectly, if it can stay in place without holding it. Once you have the proper fit, you can adjust the strap to fit snug at the widest area of your head. Pulling your hair back, will keep the seal tight and water will not leak in. If you have a moustache you can try putting some lip balm or Vaseline below your nose.

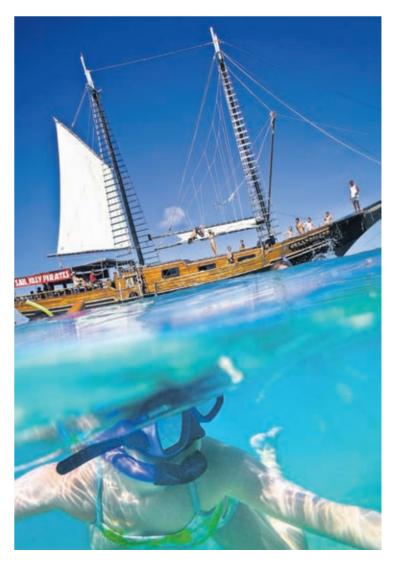
Before you get in the ocean, try some simple, relaxed breathing through your snorkel. Once you're in the ocean you will feel there's enough pressure to seal the mask making it unnecessary to pull your strap overly tight.

As a rule, you should always put your fins on, when you're in the water. Once your feet are wet, your fins become easier to slide on. Small flutter kicks will propel you through as you glide comfortable in the water. You'll see a lot of cool things underwater, this will help you focus. A relaxed snorkeler get more pleasure out of snorkeling.

The Jolly Pirates crew encourages all snorkelers, regardless of their swimming abilities to wear a flotation device. Aruba's clear waters afford snorkelers incredible visibility at shallow colorful reef areas and with a little practice, you can swim along the marine life and visit other colorful sites, close to Aruba's shoreline.

You can choose for a morning or afternoon snorkel cruise with the Jolly Pirates and view the 400ft WWII Shipwreck Antilla. Resting on her portside, the sunken treasure, encrusted in fascinating corals is home to oodles of sea critters. Equipped with mask, snorkel and fins – enthusiastic Jolly Pirates guests twice daily can tour the amazing wreck, immersed in WWII history.

Meet new friends, swing from a rope, swim in the turquoise Caribbean sea, sunbathe on teak decks and enjoy an unlimited open bar and a BBQ feast with jolliest pirates of the Caribbean.











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Fisherman and his boat



My grandfather was a fisherman and as kid growing up we used to go to his house and listen to his stories and we were all amazed by his stories far away on the deep sea. By selling fish he paid for my father's education and till today I love photographing fisherman and do have big respect for them risking their lives on the sea so we can have fresh fish. Here in Aruba we do have many companies giving the service for half-day deep-sea fishing or full day and sure you will love the experience.

Rodgers Beach in the 50's and 2019



In the months of March – April it's very windy here in Aruba and that can be seen at the Natural Pool in the Arikok National Park. The pool get its water from the waves splashing on the rocks and in that way they fill the pool but in these months it is dangerous at this pool. Don't go on the north side of the pool because you can get hurt if you fall down between the rocks. It's fantastic to look at but don't go close the northern rocks.

Natural Pool in March/April



In the months of March – April it's very windy here in Aruba and that can be seen at the Natural Pool in the Arikok National Park. The pool get its water from the waves splashing on the rocks and in that way they fill the pool but in these months it is dangerous at this pool. Don't go on the north side of the pool because you can get hurt if you fall down between the rocks. It's fantastic to look at but don't go close the northern rocks.





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After successful completion of 5 year employment agreement with AAA: James Fazio is ready to prepare the next CEO for the company



ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) CEO Mr. James Fazio just announced his personal decision to leave the position as CEO of AAA effective at the end of his current employment agreement; which is August 31st, 2019.

Mr. Fazio has served as AAA's CEO for the past 5 years, and during that time, among other accomplishments, has provided the leadership and guidance for the airport's Gateway 2030 expansion project. Mr. Fazio commented on the timing of the decision: "The airport is transitioning from the planning to the construction phase of was a priority for Mr. Fazio the Gateway 2030 project, which required the difficult decision as to whether or

not to stay another 5 years, and based on personal reasons, I wish to be closer to family and friends, and resume my career back in New York. Royal Schiphol Group has identified a candidate as my successor, and in the next week or so, the new CEO will visit Aruba and be introduced to the Shareholder, Supervisory Board, and AAA staff." This has been a carefully planned transition, which will allow for a 4 to 5 month transition, and properly prepare the new CEO for the upcoming construction project and the leadership role of the airport.

During his 5 years at AAA, it to ensure a good relationship and open communication with all airport partners and to provide the best leadership possible to the company: "I want to emphasize that I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Aruba and am thankful to the Government, partners, stakeholders, staff and everyone who I worked closely with in such a professional and respectful way. I feel honored to have been trusted to lead Aruba's national airport for the past 5 years and I will continue to be 100% committed to AAA during the rest of my time here; as we still have several important projectrelated milestones to cross in the coming months."

AAA thanks Mr. Fazio for his efforts to further develop the growing airport and wishes Mr. Fazio all the best in his next career goals. 🔲

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SPORTS



Central Florida's Aubrey Dawkins (15) shoots while defended by Duke's Zion Williamson, left, and RJ Barrett during the first half of a first round men's college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament in Columbia, S.C. Sunday, March 24, 2019. Associated Press

Williamson, Duke survive UCF's late misses, reach Sweet 16

By PETE IACOBELLI AP Sports Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Zion Williamson took on 7-foot-6 Tacko Fall at the end and won. So did topseeded Duke — barely when two last-ditch shots by UCF rolled off the rim.

Williamson had 32 points and helped rally the Blue Devils from behind in the final minute for a 77-76 victory Sunday to reach the Sweet 16.

Aubrey Dawkins finished with 32 points for the Knights, but his tip-in try just missed in the final seconds. Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski "talks a lot about the basketball gods," a happy Williamson said. "They had our backs today."

Williamson was key to the comeback. He made a layup over Fall with 14.4 seconds left to draw Duke within a point as Fall fouled out on the play. Williamson missed the free throw, but RJ Barrett scored on a putback to put the Blue Devils (31-5) ahead.

Continued on Page 20

CHILD'S PLAN

Rookie Herta wins IndyCar Classic at 18 years old

Colton Herta celebrates his win in the IndyCar Classic auto race Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press Page 23 DUK



Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski announces retirement

By KYLE HIGHTOWER AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The New England Patriots' gentle giant has decided to hang up his cleats.

Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski said Sunday that he is retiring from the NFL after nine seasons.

Gronkowski announced his decision via a post on Instagram , saying that a few months shy of his 30th birthday "it's time to move forward and move forward with a big smile."

"It all started at 20 years old on stage at the NFL draft when my dream came true, and now here I am about to turn 30 in a few months with a decision I feel is the biggest of my life so far," Gronkowski wrote in his post. "I will be retiring from the game of football today." Drew Rosenhaus, Gronkowski's agent, confirmed his client's decision to retire.

The tight end, who turns 30 in May, leaves as a threetime Super Bowl champion who established himself as one of the most dominant players at his position.

But he has been dogged in recent seasons by back, knee, ankle and arm injuries that have limited his ability to stay on the field.

It led him to hint at retirement following New England's Super Bowl loss to the Philadelphia Eagles to end the 2017 season and again last month after the Patriots' Super Bowl win over the Los Angeles Rams. In his Instagram post, Gronkowski thanked the Patriots organization, coach Bill Belichick and New England's fans for their support during his nine NFL seasons.

"Thank you for everyone accepting who I am and the dedication I have put into my work to be the best player I could be," Gronkowski wrote.

Gronkowski's teammates almost immediately began to flood social media with well-wishes.

"Love you man!!" quarterback Tom Brady wrote on Instagram, along with an emoji of a goat to refer to Gronkowski as the greatest of all-time. "Couldn't be a better person or teammate!!!!"

It was a sentiment shared by receiver Julian Edelman. "The other goat," Edelman posted on his Instagram page.

Though he won't have the longevity of some of his contemporaries at tight end, Gronkowski is expected to get strong consideration for the Pro Football Hall of Fame when eligible. Gronkowski was one of Brady's favorite targets after being drafted in the second round of the 2010 draft. He had his fourth career 1,000-yard receiving season in 2017 and was an All-Pro for the fourth time that season.

But at times he looked like a shell of himself during the Patriots' Super Bowl run this past season. Gronkowski finished the 2018 regular season with just 47 catches for 682 yards and three touchdowns.

He had one of his best games of the season in the Patriots' Super Bowl win over the Rams, hauling in six catches for 87 yards, including two receptions on New England's only touchdown drive during their 13-3 victory.

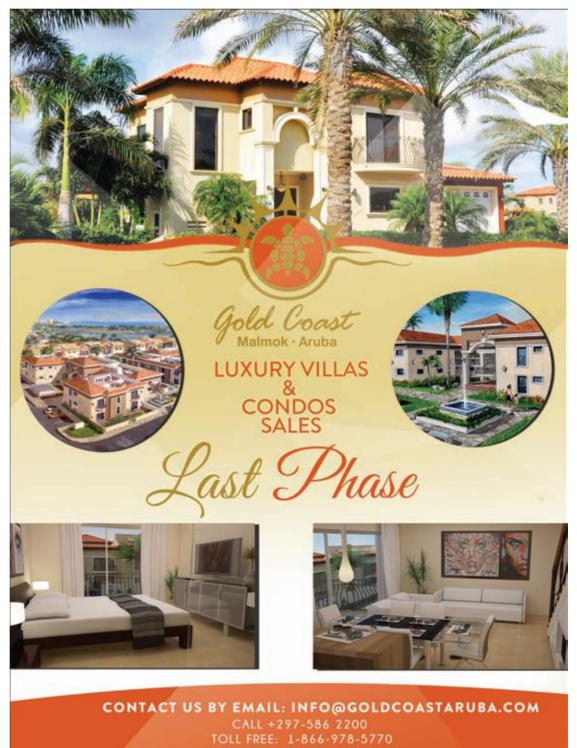
A fan favorite in New England for his gregarious and playful persona that included awkward dance moves and touchdown celebrations, Gronkowski was one of the most dominant tight ends of his era.

His 12 career postseason touchdown receptions are the most by a tight end in NFL playoff history. His 81 career postseason catches are also best among tight ends. He'll also retire with 79 career TD catches regular season and playoffs — which is third all-time by a tight end behind only Antonio Gates (116) and Tony Gonzalez (111).

Brady and Gronkowski connected on 78 TD passes. It is the second-most scoring connections between a quarterback and a tight end in NFL history behind only Philip Rivers and Gates (89) and is fifth overall between quarterbacks and all pass-catchers.



In this Feb. 1, 2015, file photo, New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski celebrates after the Patriots defeated the Seattle Seahawks in the NFL Super Bowl football game in Glendale, Ariz. Associated Press



MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019 SPORTS



Williamson, Duke survive UCF's late misses, reach Sweet 16

Continued from Page 18

Barrett said he had watched plenty of NCAA Tournament games where players missed foul shots and an offensive rebound could have made the difference.

"I was going to do whatever I can to get this rebound," he said.

Ninth-seeded UCF (24-9) had a final chance. Two of them, actually, from in close.

B.J. Taylor missed a short jumper, and Dawkins failed on his tip attempt with less than two seconds left, the ball spinning off the rim. Duke got the rebound, ran out the clock and moved on to the Sweet 16 for 27th time and fourth time in the past five years.

"It was up there forever, former Duke star and long-



Duke's Zion Williamson, right, shoots over Central Florida's Tacko Fall during the second half of a second-round men's college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament in Columbia, S.C., Sunday, March 24, 2019. **Associated Press**

I felt like, in slow motion," time assistant under Krzyze-

wski.

atch

Dawkins cringed at the miss. His father, Johnny, is long embrace at midcourt the UCF coach and was a

after it was over. "It's tough," the elder

The two coaches shared a

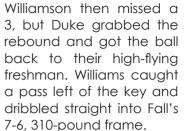
Dawkins said. "I love that man. Without him, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Barrett finished with 16 points.

It looked as if Dawkins might take down his dad's alma mater in the NCAAs. His last basket broke a 70-all tie, and when Fall dunked Taylor's miss — the play was reviewed for a possible shot-clock violation — the Knights were ahead 74-70. UCF missed a huge chance to go up six when it couldn't connect on an alley-oop dunk attempt with 1:49 left Dayon Griffin's lob went off Dawkins' hands as he soared toward the rim and Cam Reddish came back with a 3-pointer for Duke. Taylor it made 76-73 with two foul shots with 45 seconds to go.

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formerly The W



Fall had stuffed Williamson three previous times, and Duke's young star was less effective underneath than he'd been his past four games. But Williamson got this shot to drop, shouting as he fell hard to the ground.

"I just tried to stay big and make a play," Fall said. "Obviously, I was in foul trouble, so I was being careful. But I just tried to make a play and make him miss and it didn't go my way."

When Duke dribbled away with the final rebound, Williamson and his teammates jumped in celebration and relief. They were moving on.

Duke will face fourth-seeded Virginia Tech in Washington, D.C., on Friday night for a spot in the Elite Eight.

Williamson, the game's most explosive player, was clearly affected by Fall. Who wouldn't be as the Knights senior stood 11 inches taller than Williamson and has a wingspan of 8-foot-4?

With Fall inside, Williamson went to the perimeter, hitting three 3-pointers after entering with just 18 on the season. When Fall was hit with foul trouble, Williamson charged to the hoop. Fall finished with 15 points and six rebounds in his final

college game.

Trailing 34-32 in the final four minutes of the opening half, Williamson hit a short jumper, and then collected Jordan Goldwire's miss for a three-point play. Barrett added a three-point play and Williamson threw a one-handed bounce pass to a streaking Jones for an easy layup as Duke

led 44-36 at the break. Williamson had 15 points in the first half, but had not dunked on the tall Fall --

mainly because UCF's center played just eight minutes due to foul trouble.



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Dawkins said.

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Casey holds on to repeat title at Valspar Championship

Jeep Tour

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP) — Paul Casey got the battle he expected Sunday in the Valspar Championship. Just not from Dustin Johnson.

Casey and everyone else had full attention on a Copperhead course at Innisbrook that made the final round feel more like survival than a shootout. Casey did just that, closing with a 1-over 72 for a one-shot victory that made him the first back-to-back winner in the 19 years of the tournament. He rallied from five shots behind last year with a 65. This time, he became the first winner at Innisbrook with a final round over par. "It feels very different, but not any less cool," Casey said after making par from a fairway bunker on the 18th to avoid a playoff with Jason Kokrak and Louis Oosthuizen. "That golf course is so difficult that it's damn near impossible to have a clean round of golf and not make any mistake. But I was composed. I was very keen to play well. I made mistakes, but then, so did everybody else. I got it done, and I couldn't be happier."

The course was so dry and fast that no one shot better than 68, and the average score of 72.143 was the second-highest average for a final round this year on the PGA Tour behind rainy, windy Riviera.

Kokrak (71) and Oosthuizen (69) each had a share of the lead on the back nine until one mistake cost them. Oosthuizen, who hit only six greens in regulation, opted for a fairway metal from just behind the 16th green and hit it too firmly. He missed the 8-foot par putt and never caught up.



Paul Casey pose with the champions trophy after winning the Valspar Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Palm Harbor, Fla.

"There was too much grass behind the ball," he said. "I saw all the grass behind the ball and I just gave it a little bit too much. I don't think I would have chipped it any closer." Kokrak had a good lie in trampled, dry grass near the cart path on the 18th hole, but his shot came out short of the green into a sprinkler hole. A free drop put him in a position to putt, but he was short and left. and missed the 8-foot par putt to fall one shot behind. "Played good golf all week, just not the way I wanted to finish," Kokrak said.

Behind him was Casey, in one of the bunkers that resemble a miniature version of Oakmont's church pews, facing a key shot into the wind to an elevated green. It came out perfectly to the right of the flag, and his birdie attempt grazed the left edge of the cup and left him with one of the easiest shots he had all day. Casey finished at 8-under

276 and moved to No. 11 in the world. It was the third straight week for a European-born winner on the PGA Tour,

the first time that has happened since 2010 when Justin Rose (Memorial), Lee Westwood (St. Jude Classic) and Graeme McDowell (U.S. Open) won in successive weeks.

Nothing came easily for Johnson, who started one shot behind and failed to make a birdie putt for the first time in 31 tournaments worldwide. The last occasion was the HSBC Champions in 2017, when he lost a six-shot lead. This time, even with no birdies and two bogeys until late in the round, he was still in the mix. That ended on the par-5 14th, when Johnson was just short of the green facing a stock chip. He ran it 5 feet by the hole and missed. Casey was on the hill and lofted a pitch onto the green to 2 feet for a birdie that restored his lead. Johnson closed with a 74 and tied for sixth.

"I didn't feel like I played bad," Johnson said. "Felt like I was swinging well and I still feel like I'm swinging well. I still got a lot of confidence in the game but just, yeah, tough day. Tough conditions and wasn't spot on."

Casey appeared to have the tournament in hand when he found the green about 35 feet below the hole on the par-3 17th. But he left it 5 feet short and missed the par putt, falling back into a share of the

Associated Press

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lead. Kokrak made bogey ahead of him, leaving Casey only needing par on the 18th for the victory.

The biggest challenge for Casey?

"Combination of myself and this golf course — the golf course providing such a stern test and myself, can I rise to that test and that challenge that it's providing and deliver?"

The tournament allowed players to choose whatever name they wanted for the caddie's bib. Casey went with "The Champ," and he found one positive to the week before he even collected his trophy. "I don't have to change the caddie bib," he said. Too late. The tournament

Too late. The tournament already has "The Champ X 2" ready for him next year.

A22 SPORTS



Mikaela in Manhattan: Shiffrin scripts marvelous ski season

By MELISSA MURPHY AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin generally whizzes past mountain gates at 80 mph. She had a much harder time maneuvering through the crowd at Macy's.

The 24-year-old skier arrived in Manhattan to celebrate the end of a record-setting season, which included an unprecedented 17 World Cup wins and her third straight overall title. Lindsey Vonn won four overall titles before she retired this season at the age of 34.

Shiffrin returned from the Pyrenees mountains — after a brief visit to Barcelona with her French boyfriend and skier Mathieu Faivre for a meet and greet with fans at the watch counter at Macy's on Thursday for sponsor Longines.

"It was a little bit, where am I going?" she said with a laugh about the flagship store.

Shiffrin had no such problems on the slopes this season.

She is the first skier — male or female — to win World Cup discipline titles in slalom, giant slalom and super-G, plus the overall title in one season. She broke the women's record and tied the men's record for most slalom wins with 40. She is the youngest skier to reach 50 World Cup wins and now has 60.

Not bad for an American skier who at age 6 told her parents she wanted to be the best in the world.

She crouched in the snow cradling the giant slalom crystal globe after clinching that title for the first time on March 17, four days after her birthday.

"I'm most proud of the GS globe," Shiffrin said. "This year, I had some breakthrough moments with giant slalom. Winning the final race was one of the more emotional moments." She made the media rounds in New York and taught Jimmy Fallon the shuffle dance during an appearance on "The Tonight Show." She will get a two-week break and spend time with her 97-year-old



Mikaela Shiffrin responds to questions during a news interview Thursday, March 21, 2019, in New York.

grandmother and settle into a new house in Colorado.

Shiffrin competes mostly in Europe during the ski season and enjoys relative anonymity back in the U.S. But that may change with the retirement of Vonn and given Shiffrin's record wins, prize money and endorsements. She is featured in a TV commercial for Barilla with tennis star Roger Federer.

Fallon called Shiffrin "the most dominant skier on the planet."

Here are more things to know about Shiffrin, whose parents were both ski racers:

TEAM EFFORT

Shiffrin knows her level of success takes a village of support, including her family, coaches, trainers and conditioning experts.

"When it comes down to race day, we don't leave it to chance and we don't leave it to luck," she said. "We only have three days in between races, it's my only block of training. They're figuring out the logistics, do we fly here, drive there, where do we go, what's the best conditions? Do we need to send somebody ahead of time to inject the slopes so the snow is hard enough when I arrive? They are on top of that all the time."

Three years ago, she enlisted coach Mike Day, who she said has had a "calming effect" compared with some "very intense coaches in the past." He's "evenkeeled" and helps "block out the noise."

BREAKTHROUGHS

An early season victory in December in the super-G — her first in that discipline at Lake Louise in Canada was key to launching her successful season, Shiffrin said. She'd had no super-G training since ski camp in Chile three months earlier. A slalom and giant slalom technical racer, her goal was to "just enjoy it" and

Associated Press

"lay down a really good run." She called it "the most fun l'd had in a race for a long time."

That win set the tone for a remarkable season.

"I thought, if I could keep this 'high standards, but no expectations' kind of mindset for the rest of the season, then I think it's going to be really good. That was a huge piece of it."

It translated into improved skiing, confidence and giant slalom turns "faster than anyone else can do." Weather and course conditions are constant variables.

"The races I won this year, maybe I had to fight for it or maybe I just skied a lot better and I earned it. That's a special kind of feeling. My GS is definitely on a different level."

MOTHER LODE

Her mother, Eileen, is a coach, video analyst, hill inspector, travel companion and all-around guiding force. They thought about tapering Eileen's travel schedule before the season, but the successes kept her on the road.

"She's family, that unconditional love," Shiffrin said. "She's only there for me. It's not like her salary rides on my success. Her happiness rides on my happiness. I'm happiest when I'm able to ski my best."

Eileen was her study partner when Mikaela was homeschooled the last two years of high school, which allowed her to travel on the World Cup circuit during the winter at age 16 after attending Burke Mountain Academy in Vermont.

"My mom is the most driven person I've ever known, but she's driven about the things she cares about. So I think people often look at her and they just assume that she has pushed me. Yeah, she pushes me in the sense that she keeps me on track. My parents were always helping me be a better skier."

LOW RISK

Shiffrin has had a relatively injury-free career, in part because her team is selective about scheduling races so she gets enough rest and training while avoiding high-risk situations. That also makes her one of the "best prepared on the circuit."

"With every minor injury I've had, I've learned a lot from it," she said.

While injury can be "part of the sport," Shiffrin said it doesn't need to keep her "out of the sport for a majority of my career."

UP NEXT

She asked her team not to rest on her laurels and to "stay on top, keep working. There's always this driving force, don't stop now, don't get complacent."

At this rate, Shiffrin could approach the record of 86 World Cup wins held by Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark. Vonn finished with 82 wins.

"Skiing has given me so much joy and so many incredible experiences in life," she said.

"I owe it to the sport itself to be the best that I can and push it to a new limit."







John Isner of USA, returns a volley to Albert Ramos-Vinglas of Spain, during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

Djokovic beats Delbonis in 3rd round at Miami

By STEVEN WINE AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Novak Djokovic squandered a second-set lead but regrouped to beat Federico Delbonis 7-5, 4-6, 6-1 Sunday in the third round of the Miami Open.

Djokovic appeared on his way to an easy victory when he led 3-1 in the second set, but he dropped serve twice in a row. He won a succession of long rallies in the final set and swept the last five games.

The top-ranked Djokovic is trying for his seventh title in the tournament, which moved this year to the Miami Dolphins' stadium complex.

Defending champion John Isner was broken in the first game but he held the rest of the way and hit 16 aces to beat Albert Ramos-Vinolas 7-5, 7-6 (6).

Isner, now 33, won the biggest title of his career in the tournament a year ago. Seeded No. 7, he'll next face No. 19 Kyle Edmund, who beat No. 12 Milos Raonic 6-4, 6-4.

In women's play, Venus Williams reached the fourth round of the tournament for the 16th time with a 6-3, 6-1 win over No. 14 Daria Kasatkina, who never held serve.

Williams won the title in 1998, 1999 and 2001. She's unseeded at Miami for the first time since 2012, but improved to 11-3 this year.

Williams next faces No. 2 Simona Halep, who outlasted Polona Hercog 5-7, 7-6 (1), 6-2.

"I was running like crazy for three hours," Halep said. "If I keep doing this, I think I have a chance to be back No. 1."

A loss Saturday by top-ranked Naomi Osaka opened the door for Halep to reclaim the top ranking if she reaches the final.

No. 25 Danielle Collins lost to Wang Yafan 7-5, 6-1.



Colton Herta acknowledges cheers from fans after winning the IndyCar Classic auto race, Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

Rookie Herta wins IndyCar Classic at 18 years old

By JIM VERTUNO AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)— Everything went Colton Herta's way on Sunday, from the victory on the race track to the sparkling wine on the podium instead of apple cider.

The 18-year American rookie became the youngest winner in IndyCar history when he captured the IndyCar Classic after a laterace crash near the entry to pit row helped him steal past the leaders to the checkered flag.

Flanked on the podium by 28-year-old Josef Newgarden and 38-year-old Ryan Hunter-Reay, Herta was handed a bottle of sparkling wine for the victory celebration while someone handed Newgarden the cider.

Glug! Herta, still well under the legal drinking age of 21, took a big drink.

"I didn't switch back," Herta said. "I took a swig and said, 'This is real!"

Newgarden was impressed.

"They gave me his drink, and gave him mine. Which is very cool of Texas," Newgarden said.

Herta's win also delivered the first victory for Harding Steinbrenner Racing , where George Steinbrenner IV — yes, of the Steinbrenner baseball family — is the youngest coowner in series history and the youngest owner of a race-winning car at age 22. After the victory, the New York Yankees tweeted congratulations to the victors.

"In this sport it takes perfect execution and a little bit of luck," Steinbrenner said. "We caught the little bit of luck ... and Colton did the rest."

Herta was running a distant third behind Team Penske's Will Power and Andretti Autosports' Alexander Rossi until James Hinchcliffe bumped rookie Felix Rosenqvist into a spin and then the wall near the entry to pit lane.

Power, who started from pole position and dominated through 45 laps, lost his big lead when the caution flag came out, and then had his race end with a driveshaft failure during his last pit stop for a late tire change. Rossi finished ninth.

Power started from pole position and could have earned a \$100,000 bonus if he had won the race.

"Massively disappointed man. (To) lead so many laps," Power said. "The yellow didn't get us, the drive shaft did." Herta still had work to do to stay ahead of Newgarden and Hunter-Reay, both former IndyCar champions. Herta dialed up the speed that made him so quick on the track in preseason testing.

Associated Press

"He's been quick since he hit the track," Hunter-Reay said. "At first sight I wouldn't trust that guy with my Honda Civic, but he's very talented. This is the big league and he just won an IndyCar race."

The previous youngest race winner was Graham Rahal in 2008 at age 19. Herta turns 19 on Saturday.

"One race win isn't enough. I want to get another," Herta said.

NO LIMITS

IndyCar didn't enforce track rules that apply to the Formula One cars the Circuit of the Americas was built for. That led to some wide racing and ultimately the crackup that cost Power his chance to win.

The cars were allowed sweeping runoffs through turns and Rosenqvist and Hinchcliffe touched as they were coming out of a wide run on Turn 19 near pit lane. Two days earlier, Rosenqvist said he likes the open racing without track limits and Power said they should be enforced.

MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019 TECHNOLOGY



FDA takes up decades-long debate over breast implant safety

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials are taking another look at the safety of breast implants, the latest review in a decadeslong debate.

At a two-day meeting that starts Monday, a panel of experts for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will hear from researchers, plastic surgeons and implant makers, as well as from women who believe their ailments were caused by the implants.

The panel will consider next steps, but for now, the FDA isn't proposing any new restrictions or warnings. The agency's longstanding position is that implants are essentially safe as long as women understand they can have complications, including scarring, pain, swelling and implant rupture. But the FDA and other regulators around the world have been arappling with how to manage a recently confirmed link to a rare cancer and the thousands of unconfirmed complaints of other health problems.

documents released In before the meeting, FDA regulators said it is "impossible" for them to determine how frequently the cancer — a form of lymphoma — occurs because the U.S. does not track the total number of implants on the market. Estimates of the frequency of the disease range from 1 in 3,000 women to 1 in 30,000. Most confirmed cases of the disease, known as breast implant-associated anaplas-



This Dec. 11, 2006 file photo shows a silicone gel breast implant in Irving, Texas.

tic large cell lymphoma, have involved a particular style of implants with a textured surface, designed to reduce scar tissue and slippage. But the FDA said it has also received reports of the disease in smooth implants — which account for most of the U.S. market - raising questions about whether the cancer is a risk with both implant types.

The disease is not breast cancer, but a form of cancer that attacks the immune system and usually forms in the scar tissue surrounding implants. It grows slowly and can usually be successfully treated by surgically removing the implants.

Thousands of women have also blamed their implants for a host of ailments, including rheumatoid arthritis, chronic fatigue and muscle

pain. In the documents, the FDA reiterated its position that "there is not sufficient evidence" linking them to breast implants. The agency also sidestepped requests from patients to add a boxed warning - the agency's most serious type - to breast implants and to require manufacturers to give women a checklist of potential harms and complications before surgery.

"I'm a little discouraged," said Jamee Cook, one of more than 20 patients set to speak at the meeting, after reviewing the FDA materials. "But I guess I'm hoping that what we have to say will prompt discussion on those action points."

A former paramedic, Cook said she had an array of health problems after getting implants in 1998, including exhaustion, migraines

Associated Press and an immune system disorder. She said her symptoms either resolved or improved after the implants were removed in 2015.

Breast augmentation is the most popular form of cosmetic surgery in the U.S., with roughly 300,000 women undergoing the procedure each year. Another 100,000 women receive implants for breast reconstruction after cancer surgery. Most women choose silicone gel-filled implants, which are considered more natural looking than saline implants.

Implants first went on sale in the mid-1960s. But they attracted little attention until the late 1980s, when a wave of lawsuits alleged serious harms and diseases linked to the devices. The FDA banned the silicone gel type in 1992 because of fears they might cause breast cancer, lupus and other disorders. But when studies seemed to rule out most of the disease concern, regulators returned the implants to the market in 2006 with the requirement that manufacturers track recipients to see how they fare long term.

Implant makers Allergan and Mentor — which is now part of Johnson & amp; Johnson — enrolled nearly 100,000 women in a 10-year study. But more than half of the women dropped out within three years, leaving insufficient data to draw firm safety conclusions.

Last September, researchers at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center analyzed the company reports and found that women with silicone implants seemed to have greater rates of an immune system disorder called Sjogren syndrome, a connective tissue disorder called scleroderma and the skin cancer melanoma. But the authors acknowledged the limitations of the data, which often relied on incomplete, undiagnosed patient reports. FDA regulators said they "respectfully disagree" with the conclusions.

Last week, the FDA sent warning letters to Mentor and a smaller implant maker, Sientra, for failing to enroll or retain enough patients in their long-term studies. Allergan and the other U.S. manufacturer of breast implants — Ideal Implant — did not receive warnings.

Florida man Googles self to find out which Florida Man he is

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A new challenge making waves on social media pokes fun at Florida's reputation for producing strange news stories involving guns, drugs, booze and reptiles — or some combination of the four.

The challenge invites participants to run their birthday and "Florida man" through a search engine

to find out which headline That Impounded His Car, pops up.

Then they must post the result on social media.

The "Florida Man" concept crept into the nation's consciousness with the @_FloridaMan Twitter account in 2013.

The account, with the tagline "Real-life stories of the world's worst superhero," has been home to recent headlines such as "Florida Man Fire Bombs Garage

Hits His Own Vehicle" and "Florida Man Tried to Pay for McDonald's With Weed."

The less common, but no less noteworthy, "Florida Woman" subgenre has produced headlines such as "A Florida woman was arrested and charged with aggravated assault without intent to kill after she reportedly 'farted loudly' in a Dollar Store and then pulled a knife on a man who com-

plained."

"Once, it seemed as though all the weird people and stories came from California.

But over the past decade, it shifted to Florida," said Jim Clark, a lecturer in the University of Central Florida's history department.

"Now, when I see a bizarre story, I am surprised when it is not from Florida."

A mixture of factors helps Florida birth these astound-

ing tales.

For starters, it's the nation's third largest state, with more than 20 million residents, and a random sample of any population that large is guaranteed to produce its share of the outrageous.

Florida is also blessed with a liberal public records law that allows these stories to surface into plain view with little resistance or concern about taste.





Liz Weston: How to give money advice that sticks

By LIZ WESTON NerdWallet

Associated Press

Unsolicited money advice is like stale fruitcake: Most people wish the givers would just keep it to themselves.

Still, those who are "good with money" often want to help friends and family who struggle. Many of us remember the timely money tip that made all the difference: when a co-worker suggested we contribute to the company's 401(k), for example, or that time a relative warned us off an investment that really was too good to be true.

So I turned to neuropsychologist and executive coach Moira Somers, author of "Advice That Sticks: How to Give Financial Advice That People Will Follow." Her book was written for financial planners, but the techniques she suggests, backed by behavioral finance research, could be helpful for anyone who wants to give effective money counsel. MAKE SURE THEY WANT



This April 2017, file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press YOUR ADVICE

Even people who pay for money advice can have trouble following it. Somers learned about something "non-adherence" called while working in health care, and she now trains financial planners in some of the same techniques doctors use to help patients follow treatment plans.

A key principle: The person being treated needs to "buy in," or agree that the suggested treatment is right for them. When someone hasn't asked for your opinion, or even if they have, a good first step is making sure they want it, Somers says.

For example, you could say, "I've been watching you struggle, and I have a few ideas for some things that might help. If you ever want to hear them, let me know," Somers suggests. WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

Some celebrity money gurus revel in shaming the people who turn to them for advice. Blaming people for their money problems is popular sport on internet forums, as well. But blame and shame rarely succeed in getting people to change their behavior, Somers says.

"That leaves the person feeling trapped or disempowered, or really, really bad about themselves," she says. So they shut down, and your advice — like that fruitcake — is quickly discarded.

Warmth, encouragement and empathy are better ways to reach people, she says. Even if you haven't been in the same position, you've undoubtedly made mistakes with money, so you can tap into that to understand how they might feel.

"People need to feel encouraged and buoyed," Somers says.

REDUCE THE FRICTION

Many people with money problems are coanitively overwhelmed, Somers says. They may be too paralyzed to take action. Good advisers ask questions to better understand the barriers their clients face, she says. "People can ask curious questions like, 'That's something that you seem to be putting off. What about this is hard for you? How can I be of help?" Somers suagests.

Once you know their challenges, you can look for ways to reduce the friction that keeps them stuck.

That could mean breaking a task down into simpler steps. To help overspending clients, for example, Somers first asks them to turn off one-click ordering on all their devices. When

they confirm they've done that, she asks them to get online access to all their bank accounts. When that's done, she asks them to start reviewing their transactions each day. This 1-2-3 approach works a lot better than telling people they have to track their expenses for a month.

Supervision or support also can help people follow through. A parent worried about an adult child's debt may offer to go with them to see a credit counselor, or set up an appointment with an empathetic financial adviser, Somers says.

In fact, leading someone to the right professional may be the best move of all, she notes. Friends and family may reject even your best advice because there are things they don't want to share with you, or they simply need a more neutral third party to guide them. "They may not be able to

hear the advice from you," Somers says. "But you can say, 'I know somebody that might be able to help you with this.'" \Box

From dollars to bytes: Digital payment tech companies merge



In this Tuesday, July 16, 2013, file photo, an ATM is displayed at a Wells Fargo bank, in Atlanta. Fidelity National Information Services is buying Worldpay for about \$35 billion with financial transactions increasingly move online.

Associated Press

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL AP Business Writer

Worldpay for about \$35 billion to combine forces as financial transactions increasingly move online.

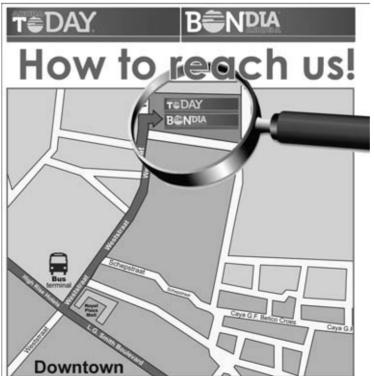
The payment service industry works behind the scenes to help complete the process for purchases. It was a simpler exercise

when those transactions took place in person with Fidelity National Informa- a swipe of a card. But tion Services is buying transactions have largely moved online and grown in complexity, forcing those background players to deal with multiple currencies, various forms of payment and more at lightning speed. The industry also faces a growing base of startup competitors.

Fidelity, or FIS as it is known, is a more traditional payment service provider, supporting more staid practices such as banks transactions. Worldpay is the "crown jewel" of the ecommerce niche, said Instinet analysts Dan Dolev and

Conan Leon. It has grown across more than 120 curquickly as the companies that it services have grown, and that makes it an attractive acquisition target. Worldpay processes more than 40 billion transactions a year and supports more than 300 payment types

rencies. Combined, Worldpay and FIS would have had 2018 revenue of \$12.3 billion. The deal represents the biggest acquisition for FIS since it spent more than \$5 billion for SunGard in 2015. 🗖



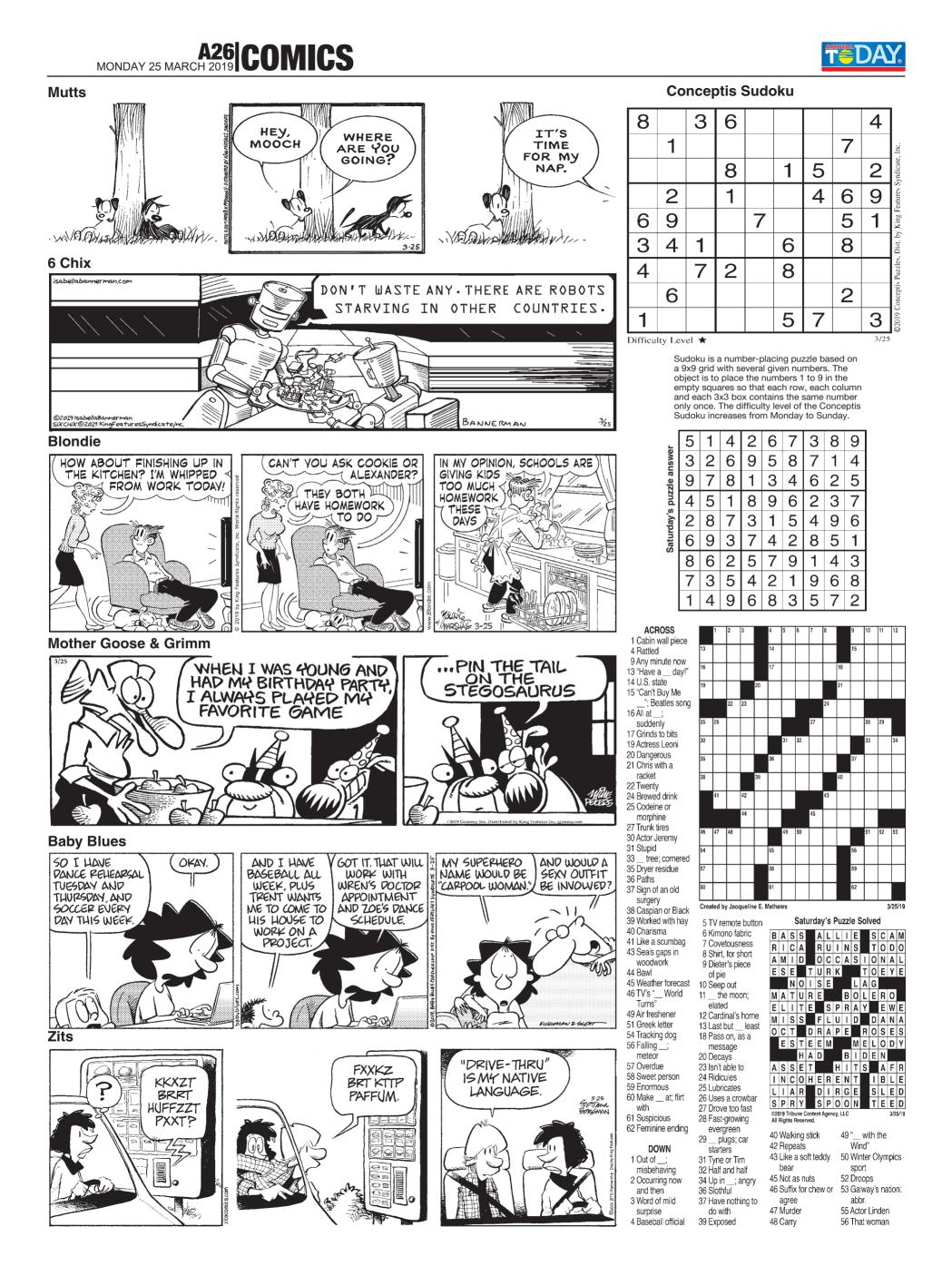


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Saturday, In this March 2019, photo released 23. Natural Resources by **Conservation Agency of Bali** (BKSDA Bali), a sedated twoyear-old orangutan rests inside rattan basket following the arrest of a Russian national Andrei Zhestkov who allegedly tried to smuggle the ape out of the resort island at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali, Indonesia. **Associated Press**

Russian accused of trying to smuggling orangutan out of Bali

DENPASAR, Indonesia (AP) - Indonesian authorities have arrested a Russian tourist who was attempting to smuggle a drugged orangutan out of the resort island of Bali, a conservation official said Sunday.

Andrei Zhestkov, 27, was arrested late Friday at Bali's international airport after customs officers found a 2-year-old male orangutan sleeping in a rattan basket placed in his luggage, said Ketut Catur Marbawa, an official with Bali's conservation agency.

Marbawa, whose agency is part of the environment and forestry ministry, said customs officers also found allergy pills wrapped in plastic, two geckos and five lizards in Zhestkov's suitcase. All the animals were alive.

He said Zhestkov told authorities he fed the orangutan allergy pills mixed with milk, causing the animal to lose consciousness for up to three hours.

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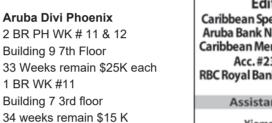
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MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019 SCIENCE



First-of-its-kind U.S. nuclear waste dump marks 20 years

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRY-AN

Associated Press ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

- In a remote stretch of New Mexico desert, the U.S. government put in motion an experiment aimed at proving to the world that radioactive waste could be safely disposed of deep underground, rendering it less of a threat to the environment.

Twenty years and more than 12,380 shipments later, tons of Cold War-era waste from decades of bomb-making and nuclear research across the U.S. have been stashed in the salt caverns that make up the underground facility . Each week, several shipments of special boxes and barrels packed with lab coats, rubber gloves, tools and debris contaminated with plutonium and other radioactive elements are trucked to the site.

But the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant has not been without issues.

A 2014 radiation leak forced an expensive, nearly three-year closure, delayed the federal government's cleanup program and prompted policy changes at national laboratories and defense-related sites across the U.S. More recently, the U.S. Department of Energy said it would investigate reports that workers may have been exposed last year to hazardous chemicals.

Still, supporters consider the repository a success, saying it provides a viable option for dealing with a multibillion-dollar mess that stretches from a decommissioned nuclear weapons production site in Washington state to one of the nation's top nuclear research labs, in Idaho,



In this April 8, 1998, file photo, a worker drives a cart through a tunnel inside the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant No. 2, 150 feet below the surface near Carlsbad, N.M.

and locations as far east as South Carolina.

If it weren't for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, many containers of plutoniumcontaminated waste would be outside, exposed to the weather and susceptible to natural disasters, said J.R. Stroble, head of business operations at the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office, which oversees the contractor that operates the repository.

"The whole purpose of WIPP is to isolate this longlived radioactive, hazardous waste from the accessible environment, from people and the things people need in order to live life on Earth," he told The Associated Press.

Stroble and others in the communities surrounding the repository are steadfast in their conviction that the facility is a success. They point to 22 sites around the nation that have been cleaned up as a result of having somewhere to put the waste — including Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside Denver that had a history of leaks, spills and other violations.

For critics, that success is checkered at best since the repository is far from fulfilling its mission.

"It's 80 percent through its lifetime, and it has disposed of less than 40 percent of the waste and has cost more than twice as much as it was supposed to," said Don Hancock with the watchdog group Southwest Research and Information Center. "How great of a success is that?" Officials initially thought the facility would operate for about 25 years. Rather than wrapping up in the next few years, managers have bumped the timeline to 2050.

The repository was carved out of an ancient salt formation about a half-mile (0.8 kilometer) below the surface, with the idea that the shifting salt would eventually entomb the radioactive waste.

It was the National Academy of Sciences in the 1950s that first recommended disposing of atomic waste in deep geologic formations. Scientists began taking a hard look at the New Mexico site about two decades Associated Press

later. The scientists had to convince themselves and then federal regulators that it was safe. One of their tasks was determining that the ancient seawater trapped between the salt crystals and bound up in thin bands of clay within the salt deposit would pose no problems thousands of years later.

"It was exciting to be working on what was then going to be the world's first deep-geologic repository for that class of waste," said Peter Swift, a senior scientist at Sandia National Laboratories. "Nothing that radioactive had been put that deep underground before. And that's still true 20 years later."

While the real test will be what happens generations from now, Swift is confident in the science behind the project.

But the wild card in whether the repository is ultimately deemed a success will be the human factor. After all, missteps by management were blamed for the 2014 radiation release.

With some areas permanently sealed off due to contamination, more mining will have to be done to expand capacity. The federal government also is spending more than a half-billion dollars to install a new ventilation system, sink more shafts and make other upgrades aimed at returning to "normal business."

Hancock and some former elected leaders involved in early discussions about the facility worry about the subterranean landfill becoming a dumping ground for high-level waste or commercial nuclear waste.

But it would take an act of Congress to expand the repository's mission, and getting consent from New Mexico's delegates would be a tall order since the federal government still has no long-term plan for dealing with such waste. Nevada's proposed Yucca Mountain project is mothballed, and no other permanent disposal proposals are on the table.

Toney Anaya, who served as New Mexico governor in the 1980s, remembers the heated debates about bringing more radioactive waste to the state. He said there were concerns about safety, but the promise of jobs was attractive. Some also argued New Mexico had a moral obligation given its legacy of uranium mining and its role in the development of the atomic bomb.

Another former governor, Bill Richardson, was on both sides of the tug of war - first as a young Democratic congressman who wanted to impose environmental standards and keep 18-wheelers loaded with waste from passing through the heart of Santa Fe. Then, he became U.S. energy secretary during the Clinton administration and pressured the state to clear the way for the repository to open.

"For New Mexico, we've done our share of storing waste, and we've done it safely and effectively," Richardson said. "It's provided jobs, but I just think the future of the state is not nuclear."

Southeastern New Mexico's ties to nuclear run deep and will continue for at least the next 30 years under the plans being charted now.



PEOPLE & ARTS A29 MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019

er she was angry at Jack-

son, Streisand said: "It's a

combination of feelings. I

feel bad for the children. I

feel bad for him. I blame,

I guess, the parents, who

would allow their children

Also attracting attention

Saturday for remarks about

to sleep with him."

Streisand apologizes for remarks on Michael Jackson accusers

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Barbra Streisand apologized Saturday for her remarks about Michael Jackson and two men who have accused him of sexual abuse, saying that she should have chosen her words more carefully and that she admires the accusers for "speaking their truth."

Streisand had received bitter criticism online after she was quoted in The Times of London as saying that Jackson's accusers were "thrilled to be there" during the alleged abuse, which "didn't kill them."

After an initial statement Saturday to The Associated Press in which she sought to clarify her remarks, the superstar of song, stage and screen posted an apology online that went further.

"I am profoundly sorry for any pain or misunderstanding I caused by not choosing my words more carefully about Michael Jackson and his victims," she wrote. "I didn't mean to dismiss the trauma these boys experienced in any way," she wrote.

"Like all survivors of sexual assault, they will have to carry this for the rest of their lives. I feel deep remorse and I hope that James and

Wade know that I truly respect and admire them for speaking their truth."

The apology went far beyond the earlier statement to the AP, in which she elaborated on her published remarks, saving she felt "nothing but sympathy" for the men, Wade Robson and James Safechuck, who accuse the late star of molesting them as children. She wrote in that earlier statement: "To be crystal clear, there is no situation or circumstance where it is OK for the innocence of children to be taken advantage of by anyone."

The remarks in question came deep into a wideranging interview with The Times. Asked about Jackson, Streisand was quoted as saying she "absolutely" believed Robson and Safechuck, who make their allegations in the recent HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland."

Jackson's estate has condemned the HBO documentary. Jackson, who died in 2009, was found not guilty in 2005 of charges he molested a 13-year-old boy.

Streisand was asked about the documentary, which she called "too painful." She then said that Jackson, when she met him, was "very sweet, very childlike." Asked how she reconciled that man with the one portrayed in the documentary, she replied: "His sexual needs were his sexual needs, coming from whatever childhood he has or whatever DNA he has.

You can say 'molested,' but those children, as you heard say, they were thrilled to be there. They both married and they both have children, so it didn't kill them."

Among those firing back on social media was the director of "Leaving Neverland," Dan Reed, who wrote of that last quote: "Did you really say that?!" Asked by The Times wheth-



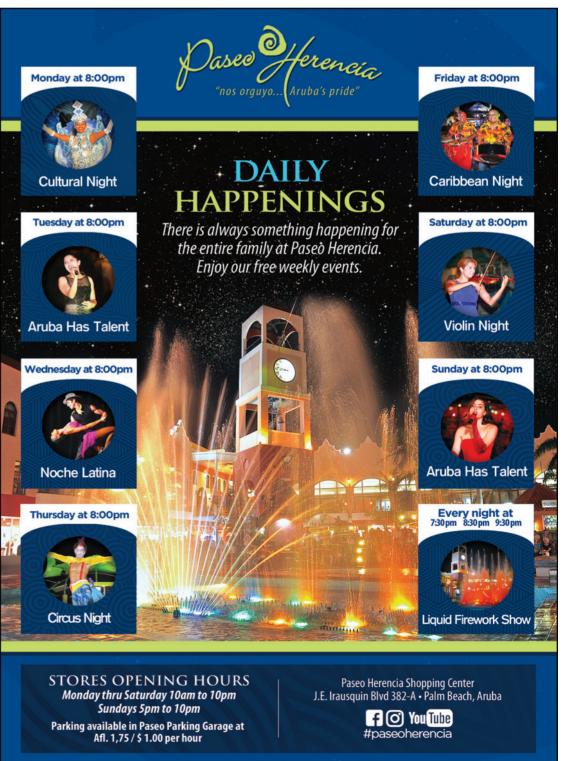
In this Feb. 24, 2019 file photo, Barbra Streisand introduces "BlacKkKlansman" at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Jackson was his close friend and mentor Diana Ross.

"This is what's on my heart this morning," Ross wrote on Twitter.

"I believe and trust that Michael Jackson was and is A magnificent incredible force to me and to many others."



Reel-y? New beer can double as motion picture film developer



In this undated photo provided by Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, cans of Dogfish's SuperEight beer are displayed on a table in Milton, Del.

Associated Press ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Kodak says a new beer hitting the market can be used to develop its Super 8 movie film. Dogfish Head Craft Brewery in Delaware created its SuperEIGHT beer after a conversation with people at Kodak, the upstate New York technology company most famous for its photographic roots.

Dogfish learned from Kodak that heightened levels of acidity and vitamin C in certain beers could make them a processing agent for film. That inspired the brewery to design such a beer. Kodak helped by testing it. Dogfish founder Sam Calagione says he'll document his summer travels on Super 8 film that will be developed in SuperEIGHT beer and turned into a short film. The beer, made with pear, mango, berries, kiwi, quinoa and salt, is set for national distribution next month.

A30 PEOPLE & ARTS



Get Out! Jordan Peele's 'Us' shatters records with \$70.3M

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

Peele has done it again. Two years after the filmmaker's "Get Out" became a box-office sensation, his frightening follow-up, "Us," debuted with \$70.3 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. The opening, well above forecasts, had few parallels. It was the largest debut for an original horror

film (only the "It" remake and last year's "Hallow-NEW YORK (AP) - Jordan een" have surpassed it in the genre) and one of the highest openings for a liveaction original film since "Avatar" was released 10 years ago.

> In today's franchise-driven movie world, seldom has a young director been such a draw. But moviegoers turned out in droves to see what kind of freak-out Peele could muster in his

> > Palm Beach Plaza Mall



This image released by Universal Pictures shows, from left, Evan Alex, Lupita Nyong'o and Shahadi Wright Joseph in a scene from "Us," written, produced and directed by Jordan Peele.

sophomore release. "Peele has really crafted an extraordinary story that I think once again is going to capture the cultural zeitgeist," said Jim Orr, distribution chief for Universal. "He is recognized as just an amazing talent. He crafts films that make you think, that are extraordinarily well-written well-acted, and are amazingly entertaining."

"Us" took over the top spot at the box office from "Captain Marvel," which had reigned for two weeks.

The Marvel Studios superhero release slid to second place with \$35 million in its third week. In three weeks of release, it's made \$910 million worldwide, and will soon become the first \$1 billion release of 2019.

Other holdovers — the animated amusement "Wonder Park" and the cystic fibrosis teen romance "Five Feet Apart"— trailed in third and fourth with about \$9 million each in their second week.

But the weekend belonged overwhelming to "Us,"

Associated Press which more than doubled the \$33.4 million domestic debut of 2017's Oscar-winning "Get Out." The former "Key & amp; Peele" star's first film as writer-director, "Get Out" ultimately grossed \$255.4 million on a \$4.5 million budget.

"Us" cost \$20 million to make, meaning it's already a huge hit for Peele and Universal Pictures, which notched its third No. 1 release of the year following "Glass" and "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World."

Museum is glad to finally hear: Yes, it's really a Van Gogh

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) -A painting at a Connecticut museum that has long been thought to be by Vincent Van Gogh has been authenticated as such by Dutch researchers. The Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford announced Friday that the oil painting "Vase with Poppies" has been verified by researchers at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam as having been painted by the Dutch artist in 1886, just after he moved to Paris. Its authenticity was called into question in 1990 by art historian and Van Gogh expert Walter Feilchenfeldt, who raised concerns about many pur-



This undated photo provided by the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art shows a painting of poppies, oil on canvas. The painting at the Connecticut museum that has long been thought to be by Vincent Van Gogh has been authenticated as such by Dutch researchers.

ported Van Goghs around the world, the Hartford Courant reported. The artwork was taken out of museum displays and shelved. Years later, with advances in technology and knowledge of Van Gogh, the museum decided to revisit the question. It was examined initially at the Atheneum, where a digital X-ray revealed an underpainting that looked like a self-portrait, which added to confidence about its authenticity. The museum in Amsterdam analyzed the artwork's paint, materials and style to conclude it was indeed done by Van Gogh. 🔲



Associated Press



PEOPLE & ARTS A31 MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019

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Gary Clark Jr. is confronting racism with 'This Land'

By RYAN PEARSON Associated Press

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) — Gary Clark Jr. has created a lot of conversation with "This Land," the provocative first song off his latest album that shares the same name.

In the angry blues-rock song, he recounts racial epithets hurled his way and other racist taunts before he defiantly asserts that he too is "America's son." In the accompanying video, young black children confront racist imagery, including a noose, among other disturbing things.

Clark says the song was sparked after he sensed a change in his Austin, Texas neighborhood during the 2016 presidential election campaign between Hillary Clinton and eventual victor Donald Trump, and then a confrontation with a neighbor prompted him to write it. "I would be driving home and I would see a lot more



This Nov. 5, 2017 file photo shows Gary Clark Jr. performing at the Summit LA17 in Los Angeles. Clark confronts racism with his new album "This Land."

Trump signs than Clinton. the 35-year-old musician. Things in the news, there Clark Jr. says a neighbor started to be conversation about — something shifted. I don't know all of it. I'm not going to try and explain all of it, but you could see it in the news and what the narrative was. Having two young ones, it kind of made me concerned about what we were getting into," said

met him outside the home he'd recently purchased and told him there was no way he — a black man could be its owner.

Associated Press

"I had to deal with something out in front of my house — I'm going to check the mail and I'm with my kid and I'm confronted by racism at my front door. And I'm like man, what time is it? What day is it? Where are we?" he said.

"I think it was something I was just sitting on for a while. I was taught to just be quiet and let things pass. And I was just tired of it. It's like, I'm here, we are here. Strong, confident, we're not going anywhere," he added. "So you're not going to tell me that I'm not worth it. You're not going to tell anyone else that they're not worth it. Because we all are."

Clark Jr. now has two children with his wife Nicole Trunfio, a white Australian model. So he laughs at Twitter trolls who have called his latest song "reverse racism" online.

"How? Do you see my wife and my children? You know what I mean? Look at my band. We look like the Village People. There's somebody from everywhere. (Sighs.) Out of dark-

ness comes the light. So with the rest of the album, there are brighter notes. And the idea is hope and love and just showing love to people," Clark said.

The genre-hopping artist says he crafted the rest of his album with a hip-hop producer's mindset, sampling from a wide range of musical styles, crafting lyrics about politics and his personal life, then laying down his trademark guitar riffs.

"In my mind, I'm trying to be like Dr. Dre, Dilla, DJ Premier, RZA, the Wu-Tang Clan. I love that stuff. So that's kind of what I do if I'm not playing guitar," he said. "In the studio, there's so many options. ... It's like man, let's just have fun with it all. So that's how I approached it. I just didn't care. I just want to make what I feel. You can call it what you want but I call it music."

Clark is currently on a tour across the United States. \Box



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